



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/891,638	06/26/2001	Nathan E. Perry	BELL-0121/01127	2837

38952 7590 10/28/2004
WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP
ONE LIBERTY PLACE - 46TH FLOOR
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

EXAMINER

KNOWLIN, THJUAN P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2642

DATE MAILED: 10/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/891,638

Applicant(s)

PERRY, NATHAN E.

Examiner

Thjuan P Knowlin

Art Unit

2642

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brennan et al (US 5,329,578).
2. In regards to claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 22, and 23, Brennan discloses a method for blocking a call to a called line selected by a calling party, said calling party having a calling line identification number (CLID), said method comprising: receiving a communication directed to a called line from a calling line; obtaining a calling line identification number for said communication; obtaining a called line identification number for said communication; looking for said calling line identification number in a data store (database 24 and callers list 26) to determine data associated with said calling line identification number concerning calls from the calling line to a called line which are to be blocked; and terminating the call if the data indicates that the call is to be blocked (col. 2 lines 17-27, col. 3 lines 62-68, col. 11 lines 24-46, and col. 13 lines 63-67).

3. In regards to claims 2 and 24, Brennan discloses the method, further comprising completing the call if the data associated with the calling line identification number does not indicate that calls to the called line are to be blocked (Abstract and col. 11 lines 24-46).
4. In regards to claims 3 and 8, Brennan discloses the method, further comprising always completing a call to an emergency call line (col. 2 lines 28-32 and col. 12 lines 15-17).
5. In regards to claims 4 and 7, Brennan discloses the method, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises a list of area codes to which calls are to be blocked (5 lines 15-18).
6. In regards to claim 6, Brennan discloses the method, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls (col. 6 lines 47-51).
7. In regards to claims 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, and 21, Brennan discloses the method of activating an outgoing call blocking service, comprising: receiving a predetermined access code from a calling line at a central office (host node 11 and col. 4 lines 19-25) associated with the calling line; prompting a caller to provide data concerning calls to be blocked; receiving the provided data; and storing said data in a data store associated with the call blocking service (col. 4-5 lines 67-8).
8. In regards to claims 15, 16, 17, and 18, Brennan discloses the method of deactivating an outgoing call blocking service, comprising; receiving a predetermined access code from a calling line at a central office associated with the calling line; prompting a caller for an authorization code (col.13 lines 25-29); retrieving a stored

Art Unit: 2642

authorization code associated with said calling line identification number; and
comparing the received authorization code with the stored authorization code (col. 4-5
lines 67-8).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bergman et al (US 6,798,772) teach a method for public access to private phone numbers and other telephonic peripherals using a caller access code.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan P Knowlin whose telephone number is (703) 308-1727. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30pm.

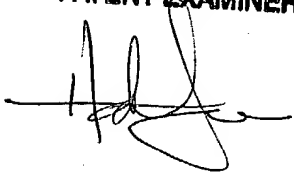
12. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (703)305-4731. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2642

13. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thjuan P. Knowlin

HECTOR A. AGDEPPA
PATENT EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Agdeppa', is written over the printed name and title of the patent examiner.